

**MINUTES AND REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 23 JANUARY 2020**

- * Councillor PS Rivers – Chair
- * Councillor Crooks – Vice Chair

* Councillor Adam	* Councillor Ashworth
* Councillor Boyle	0 Councillor Cosser
* Councillor Crooks	* Councillor Duce
* Councillor Follows	0 Councillor Heagin
* Councillor Hullah	* Councillor Martin
L Councillor Neill	* Councillor Purvis
* Councillor PS Rivers	* Councillor Rosoman
* Councillor Steel	* Councillor Stubbs
0 Councillor Wardell	0 Councillor Welland
* Councillor Williams	

* Present # Absent & No Apology Received 0 Apology for Absence L Late

334. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

At the proposal of Cllr Follows and seconded by Cllr Williams, Members elected Councillor Paul Rivers as Chair of the Environment & Planning Committee.

335. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

At the proposal of Cllr Follows and seconded by Cllr Williams, Members elected Councillor Bob Crooks as Vice Chair of the Environment & Planning Committee.

336. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and recorded as above.

337. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members made no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting, which is required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.

The comments and observations from the following Waverley Borough Councillors were preliminary ones prior to consideration at Borough Council level and were based on the evidence and representations to the Town Council.

Councillor Cosser
Councillor Follows
Councillor Heagin
Councillor Martin
Councillor PS Rivers
Councillor Rosoman
Councillor Williams

338. PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mrs Kathy Smyth, Joint Co-ordinator of the Godalming Friends of the Earth and a business owner in Godalming asked why solar panels were not installed on the Wilfrid Noyce Community Centre as part of its refurbishment.

The Town Clerk informed Mrs Smyth and Committee Members that the installation of solar panels had been investigated during the design phase of the refurbishment. Unfortunately due to the construction of the centre's roof it was not a viable option. However, in order to reduce energy needs the refurbishment was designed to be as sustainable as possible with significant increases to insulation throughout the building.

339. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions were submitted by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 6.

340. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Following debate on the recommendation to be made to Full Council for the composition of the membership of the Environment & Planning Committee, Members acknowledged that the earlier start time of this Committee, which was not known at the time of the May 2019 election, limits some Members' ability to attend. As such members resolved to agree to recommend to Full Council that:

The Environment & Planning Committee be comprised of 18 members with the exception of the Town Mayor and Cllr Welland until either the end of the current administration or until the composition of the Committee is next formally reviewed.

341. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) PROJECTS GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

Recommendation: Members to resolve to agree the appointment of three of their number to form a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects Governance Working Group.

The Environment & Planning Committee is required to address and, where appropriate, formulate policy for consideration by the Council and to discharge the Council's functions relating to the local environment and infrastructure. Part of this function relates to the Council's responsibilities regarding the proper use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

On a proposal by Cllr Follows, seconded by Cllr Williams, In order to establish appropriate procedures for the Governance of the use of CIL Members, Members resolved to agree to appoint Cllr Adam, Cllr Crooks and Cllr Ashworth to form a working group to work with the Town Clerk to formulate a CIL policy for consideration by this Committee that establishes:

- GTC's Governance Arrangements for managing Neighbourhood CIL;
- GTC's CIL Project Assessment Process; and
- draft a list of Infrastructure Projects for Godalming.

342. ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE GRANTS CRITERIA WORKING GROUP

The Environment & Planning Committee is required to decide on applications made by local organisations for funding from the Council's Carbon-reduction & Mitigation Grant Scheme.

On a proposal by Cllr Follows, seconded by Cllr Duce, In order to establish appropriate criteria and procedures for the governance of the use of the fund, Members resolved to agree to appoint Cllr Hullah, Cllr Purvis and Cllr Wardell to form a working group to work with the Responsible Finance Officer in formulating a Grants Criteria for consideration by this Committee that establishes:

- the general scope of the grant award scheme;
- who/what type of groups may apply; and

- method of determination of benefit in CO2e reduction and/or improved biodiversity outcome.

343. PLANNING ISSUES – METHOD OF DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR OBSERVATION BY THE ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE

On 26 September 2019, Full Council agreed to transfer the responsibility for planning matters from the Policy & Management Committee to the Environment & Planning Committee on the establishment of that Committee. As such, the arrangements where Members are sent the weekly schedule of planning applications and if they wish any application to be considered by the Council, Members request that the Town Clerk includes the planning application on the next agenda remains extant.

On a proposal by Cllr Follows, seconded by Cllr Martin, Members resolved to appoint Cllr PS Rivers, Cllr Crooks, Cllr Boyle and Cllr Martin to form a working group to consider appropriate criteria and procedures and to bring forward recommendations for consideration by the Environment & Planning Committee for the method to be used for determining which applications should be considered for observation by the Committee.

As Godalming Town Council does not receive hard copies of planning application documents (plans etc.), as such, Members are required to view planning applications online. In looking at options the Working Group will need to consider access to the planning applications online documents.

344. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – CONSULTATION – PROCESS

Planning Application WA/2019/2041

WESTBROOK MILLS, BOROUGH ROAD, GODALMING, GU7 2AZ

Outline permission for a 67-unit retirement scheme (including 30% affordable) with new vehicular exit associated parking and landscaping.

<http://planning360.waverley.gov.uk/planning/planning-documents?SDescription=WA/2019/2041>.

Following consideration of this planning application, Members resolved to agree the following observations to be sent to the Local Planning Authority:

Godalming Town Council Objects to planning application WA/2029/2041, WESTBROOK MILLS, BOROUGH ROAD, GODALMING, GU7 2AZ, for the following reasons:

- Green Belt – No exceptional case for removal from the Green Belt has been made.
- Bulk & Massing – the proposed blocks are overbearing and not in keeping with the environment.
- Vehicular Access – the proposed entrance is inappropriate, this gateway was used as a pedestrian entrance to the site and an emergency access to the western side of the narrow low railway arch, not as a regular vehicle access to the site as alluded to in the planning statement.
- Water Reuse and Efficiency – The applicant makes no proposals to meet the aims of Policy GOD13 of the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan.
- Movement Routes – The proposed development is contrary to Policy GOD9 A & C of the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan in as much as it increases risk to pedestrians using Westbrook Road and New Way. The closure of the rear access of Godalming railway station combined with the increased footfall anticipated by the Ockford Park Development increases the pedestrian and cycle movement through the Westbrook railway bridge archway and pedestrian and cycle movement in general along Westbrook Road which does not have separate carriageway and footpath.
- Biodiversity – The proposed development threatens the biodiversity of the adjoining meadows and countryside.

- Loss of amenity – The proposed development increases the risk to residents of The Meath from vehicular movement which would restrict The Meath residents' ability to safely move aided or unaided along Westbrook Road, thus reducing their quality of life.

345. COMMUNICATIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

Members wished a press release to be sent regarding planning application WA/2019/2041.

346. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment & Planning Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 13 February 2020 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.

347. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were informed that the planning group for the Godalming Community Run to be held on Sunday, 17 May 2020 has agreed that it will not use single use plastic water bottles at the events water stations.